



Benefits of Starting and Working With a Neighborhood Networks Center

A Neighborhood Networks center gives the community access to technology and services for adults, children, youth, and seniors. Everyone involved with Neighborhood Networks can benefit from this exciting program. Residents, property owners and managers, partners, and communities all share in the rewards of opening and assisting centers.

Who benefits from Neighborhood Networks centers, and how?

Residents

Residents gain access to onsite programs and services that provide job-skills training, education, and support services that foster healthier, self-sufficient families. With higher incomes, residents can move into market-rate housing, opening up subsidized housing units for others with greater need.

- Working adults receive job training, education, and support services.
- Children and youth are given an environment that promotes academic achievement.
- Seniors gain access to health programs and services, computer training, and activities that help them remain productive and maintain their quality of life and self-sufficiency.
- Residents with disabilities find access to programs and services that enable them to be healthy and active members of their community.

Property owners and managers

Property owners benefit from the return on investment that having a Neighborhood Networks center on their property can provide. Many property owners and managers nationwide report that Neighborhood Networks centers give them an edge in marketing their properties. Housing owners and managers

also report that Neighborhood Networks centers help reduce vacancy rates, thus stabilizing the community, reducing vandalism, and improving the enthusiasm and community spirit of the residents.

Partners

Community partners such as local hospitals, colleges, nonprofit organizations, and service providers are making a strategic investment—whether it is a nationwide or a local partnership. By collaborating with Neighborhood Networks on a local and/or national level, partners can:

- Gain greater access to targeted populations.
- Impact the economic health of communities.

Neighborhood Networks Facts

WHAT: Neighborhood Networks is a community-based program launched by HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing Programs in September 1995 that encourages the development of resource and community technology centers in HUD insured and assisted housing.

- More than 1,000 centers in operation.*
- Thousands of business, community, and government partners.

WHO: Serves HUD insured and assisted housing residents, owners, managers, partners, and communities.

*as of 5/02

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- Meet their philanthropic commitments.
- Train a labor force in skills that meet the needs of employers.
- Open new markets.

Communities

A Neighborhood Networks center enhances the quality of life of the community and its residents. Neighboring communities benefit in numerous ways:

- Many centers allow residents of the surrounding communities to use their facilities, giving them access to services for adults, children, youth, seniors, and the disabled.
- Centers can reduce incidents of vandalism by promoting community ownership and access to employment and opportunity. This reduces operating costs, resulting in savings for both property owners and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In addition, the safer environment benefits the entire community.
- Local employers benefit by hiring skilled workers, sometimes trained through the centers to meet their specific requirements.
- Community partners such as local hospitals, colleges, nonprofit organizations, and service providers gain greater access to their target populations. This enables them to better fulfill their missions.

How a successful partnership might work:

- A social service agency provides support services at a Neighborhood Networks center and reaches a new group of constituents.
- A corporation works with a center to develop and offer a job training program and gains access to a newly trained workforce.
- Area colleges and universities provide student interns to teach after-school programs, giving both the student interns and the center participants a great learning opportunity.
- Hospitals and community health centers develop programs and activities to help Neighborhood Networks centers address the health concerns of their participants.

For more information, contact:

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